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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 18, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KATHERINE M. CLARK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, alive and active, judging the thoughts and attitudes of our hearts. Yours is a word which calls us to hear and obey, to live according to the truth and love You lay before us.

Holy God, speak Your word to us today that it would pierce our hearts and judge our thoughts and intentions. Share the insight of Your word with us that it would shed light on our wayward paths, that we would return to the way You would have us live.

Reveal the meaning of Your word when our own perception falls short, that we would understand what You call us to do and who You call us to be.

Time and again, our words have proven inadequate, hurtful, and unwise. We pray Your redemption, O God. Let our speech always be gracious, seasoned with kindness, so that it would serve to build one another up and not tear each other down.

Today and every day, call us back to the words You have provided in scripture, that You would teach us, rebuke us, correct us, and train us in the way of righteousness.

In the strength of Your name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ESPAILLAT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING ANGIE HENDERSHOT

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize an incredible leader in mid-Michigan, Angie Hendershot.

For the past 25 years, my constituents in Flint, Saginaw, and Bay City have welcomed Angie Hendershot into their homes as a reporter and anchor with ABC TV-12. She is a trusted voice in our community. Local reporters like Angie play a vital role in democracy.

For the past 25 years, she has kept mid-Michigan informed and connected through her on-the-ground reporting and investigative journalism. Through-

out her course of work, Angie has won many awards, including 10 Emmys and numerous awards from the Associated Press and Michigan Association of Broadcasters.

But for Angie, working at ABC 12 isn't just a job; it is a way to give back to the community she loves. She has demonstrated time and time again her commitment to mid-Michigan throughout her career with volunteerism and charity work. One of those initiatives is the annual diaper drive, where Angie helps to collect donations of diapers, wipes, and cash to help the Flint Diaper Bank supply more than a million diapers to local, needy babies every year.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Angie on her achievements and this important milestone. I speak for our entire community when I say we look forward to welcoming her into our living rooms for many, many years to come.

Great work, Angie.

PENN STATE'S SEATS FOR SERVICEMEMBERS

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, as Americans, we should always honor and support our veterans and Active Duty military personnel. This week, Penn State University kicked off its 10th annual Military Appreciation Week, holding a series of events and ceremonies on behalf of the brave men and women who have served and fought for and continue to fight for our country.

Military Appreciation Week at Penn State culminates this Saturday with the annual military appreciation tailgate and football game at Beaver Stadium. Penn State's Seats for Servicemembers program will give 7,000 complimentary tickets to veterans and servicemembers to enjoy the game.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Moreover, Penn State is now home to the largest stadium in the United States, honoring POW/MIA service-members with a chair of honor that will forever remain empty honoring those brave Americans who never returned home.

To Penn State University and the community members who have made this week possible, thank you for your work. We are Penn State.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS FOR TEXAS

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the billions of dollars coming to Texas to provide clean water and to weatherize our power grid.

In just the past year and a half, my district has faced a devastating winter storm and a massive pipe burst that put lives at risk. These two events, pictured beside me, demonstrate a simple truth. We are long past due for investments that modernize our electric grid and restore our aging water systems.

That is why I am proud that the infrastructure bill will invest \$3.5 billion to prepare power grids for weather emergencies and bring \$2.9 billion directly to Texas for clean water. Thanks to this funding, communities like mine will benefit from clean water, reliable power, and peace of mind.

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

(Mr. GUEST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, I rise today on Thursday, November 18, in honor of National Rural Health Day. My home State of Mississippi is leading the way in rural healthcare innovation, which is important because 54 percent of our State's population lives in rural areas. Thanks to a strong network of hospitals served by dedicated healthcare providers, as well as a world-class telehealth system anchored by the University of Mississippi Medical Center, patients in Mississippi can receive the care they need in their communities.

I am proud of the partnership between two universities in my district to improve health outcomes in rural communities across our State. The University of Mississippi Medical Center, our State's only academic medical center, and Mississippi State University, with its land grant mission and extension expertise, are partnering on critical healthcare and public health challenges and are working together to meet the healthcare needs of their fellow Mississippians.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful for Mississippi's role in advancing rural healthcare and the selfless service of our healthcare providers.

BUILDING BACK GREEN

(Mr. ESPAILLAT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend my colleagues for acting to tackle the climate crisis. Under President Biden's leadership, we are celebrating America's efforts to combat our world's largest existential threat: global warming.

Last week, Speaker PELOSI led a diverse group of House Democrats to Glasgow, Scotland. I was part of that group, the COP 26 conference, and our message was clear. The U.S. is proud to be back in the Paris Agreement and will continue to demonstrate our commitment to reach net-zero emissions.

Our commitment was met by action, not only with the agreements that were struck during the conference, but also the sound policies included in the Build Back Better Act. The framework's \$555 billion investment represents the largest single investment in our clean energy economy in history. This includes buildings, transportation, industry, electricity, agriculture, and climate-smart practices across lands and waters.

As an environmental justice policy, the Justice40 acknowledges decades of environmental burdens on Black, Brown, and indigenous communities. Upholding this policy is vital to guarantee that communities that have weathered the costs of climate change finally receive commonsense human rights.

Let's build back better. Let's build back green.

ECONOMIC CRISIS

(Mrs. STEEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to discuss the rising costs that are crushing hardworking families.

Last week, it was reported that inflation hit a 30-year high. This is a hidden tax on every American that is making your paycheck worth less. Americans are paying more for everything, from groceries, to utilities, to filling up the gas tank.

The cost of a gallon of gas is up 61 percent; utilities up 28 percent; and everyday grocery items, like eggs, milk, and chicken, are all significantly higher.

These numbers have real consequences for not only Orange County families I represent, but nationwide. We need to get our spending under control or these problems will only continue to get worse.

Madam Speaker, I will continue to fight against these policies that are making life for Americans more expensive.

OVERDOSE DEATHS REACH RECORD HIGH

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, we got horrible news yesterday; for the first time in the United States, over 100,000 people died from illegal drugs. When I got here 6 years ago, that number was 47,000. By comparison, in 12 years, only 58,000 died in the Vietnam War. Almost twice as many people die in this country every year from illegal drug overdose than died in the entire 12-year period of the Vietnam War.

Today, we look at a major bill, the Build Back Better Act, and we look at what is the effect of the Build Back Better Act on 100,000 deaths. In this bill, we are encouraging more illegal immigration; we are taking more Border Patrol agents off the border and processing young people. And finally, in this bill we are encouraging more people to come here, which inevitably means more fentanyl, more deaths.

Madam Speaker, I ask the majority party to please step back, change the bill to add a few more Border Patrol agents, and change the bill to get out the carrots that are going to encourage more fentanyl and more deaths.

VACCINE MANDATE CONCERNS

(Mr. ROSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, today, I come to the House floor to speak on behalf of business owners and employees and healthcare providers, including employees at Cookeville Regional Medical Center who are concerned about President Biden's unconstitutional vaccine mandate.

If the Biden administration mandate is allowed to take effect, there is a strong possibility that Cookeville Regional Medical Center, the hospital in my hometown where I was born and where my two sons were born, will not have the staff necessary to carry on normal operations.

The Biden administration's plan to mandate vaccines will devastate medical facilities throughout the country. Let me be clear. President Biden's mandates on medical facilities will dramatically exacerbate the current medical worker shortage in my State and in my district.

While I encourage everyone to consult with their doctors and consider joining me in being vaccinated, it is not the Federal Government's place, under the current circumstances, to mandate a vaccine. That is why I am calling on President Biden to end his indiscriminate vaccine mandate.